

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A system for sharing configuration information among a plurality of devices, the system comprising:

a network;

a plurality of consumer devices in communication with the network; and

a plurality of producer devices in communication with the network the plurality of producer devices able to communicate with the plurality of consumer devices via the network, each of the plurality of producer devices including an active configuration information protocol having an active incrementable CONFIG ID corresponding to an active data that is independent of configuration information protocol of other producer devices without a common database of configuration information protocol or a central configuration information repository that when provided to one of the plurality of consumer devices allow the receiving consumer device to properly configure the corresponding active data received from the producer device from which the configuration information protocol was received, one of the plurality of producer devices having configuration information that can be different than the configuration information in another of the plurality of producer devices, the consumer device configured to compare the active incrementable CONFIG ID to a previously obtained incrementable CONFIG ID that corresponds to a previously obtained configuration information protocol, each of the plurality of consumer devices able to automatically request the active configuration information protocol information from one of the plurality of producer devices ~~pertaining to data received from the one of the plurality of producer devices~~ in response to a mismatch between the active incrementable CONFIG ID and the previously obtained incrementable CONFIG ID detectable by the consumer receiving data from the one of the plurality of producer devices, the one of the plurality of the producer devices being responsive to the request without alteration of data or configuration information produced from the one of the plurality of producer devices.

2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ [[a]] configuration information protocol includes one or more of data type, encoding, location, ~~and~~ array length[[,]] a signature, a time stamp, data size, an array element index, cardinality, an offset, and an address of a data sample.

3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ [[a]] configuration information protocol includes default values.

4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ [[a]] configuration information protocol includes a first configuration and a second configuration, the second configuration being unique in comparison to configurations of all other producer devices, the producer device transmits the data sample having the first configuration and a version of the first configuration and at least one of an indication that the second configuration is pending and a version of the second configuration.

5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 4, wherein the producer device receives a request from the consumer device to send the configuration information protocol in response to the at least one of the indication that the second configuration is pending and the version of the second configuration.

6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ [[a]] configuration information protocol includes a first configuration and a second configuration, the second configuration being unique in comparison to configurations of all other producer devices, the producer device transmits at least one of the data sample having the first configuration, a version of the first configuration, an indication that the second configuration is pending, and a version of the second configuration.

7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the producer device receives a request from the consumer device to send the configuration information protocol in response to the at least one of the indication that the second configuration is pending and the version of the second configuration.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the consumer device detects a mismatch in the ~~configuration information~~ CONFIG ID via the network.

9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the producer device receives an instruction from external source to change ~~the~~ [[a]] configuration information protocol from a first configuration to a second configuration.

10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the producer device instructs the consumer device via the network that a change in ~~the~~ [[a]] configuration information protocol is pending.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the producer device maintains a first configuration for a predetermined time and creates a second configuration.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the producer device transmits the second configuration to the consumer device.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the producer device implements the second configuration and the consumer device responds and implements the second configuration.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the network includes at least one of an local area network, a wide area network, a global network, a virtual private network, an intranet, an Ethernet local area network with internet protocol.

15. (Currently amended) A method for sharing configuration information among a plurality of devices, the method comprising:

transmitting a ~~data sample~~ active incrementable CONFIG ID from a producer device to a consumer device via a network;

comparing the active incrementable CONFIG ID and a previously obtained incrementable CONFIG ID that was previously obtained by the consumer;

detecting a mismatch between the active incrementable CONFIG ID and the previously obtained CONFIG ID;

receiving a request at the producer device from the consumer device when a mismatch is detected by the consumer device to send an active configuration information to the consumer device, the active configuration information relating to the an active data sample; and

automatically transmitting the active configuration information, without modifying the configuration information as a result of the request, stored in the producer device that is independent of configuration information stored in any other producer device and that is not from a common database of configuration information or a central configuration repository from the producer device to the consumer device via the network in response to receiving the request from the consumer device.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising receiving an instruction at the producer device to change the [[a]] configuration information from a first configuration to a second configuration.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, instructing the consumer device via the network that the change in the [[a]] configuration information is pending.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising maintaining the first configuration at the producer device for a predetermined time and creating the second configuration at the producer device.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising transmitting the second configuration to the consumer device.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising implementing the second configuration at the producer device.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising implementing the second configuration at the consumer device in response to the producer device implementing the second configuration.

23. (Currently amended) A computer program product for sharing configuration information among a plurality of devices, the computer program product comprising:

a storage medium readable by a processing circuit and storing instructions for execution by the processing circuit for performing a method comprising:

transmitting a ~~data sample~~ active incrementable CONFIG ID from a producer device to a consumer device via a network;

comparing the active incrementable CONFIG ID and a previously obtained incrementable CONFIG ID that was previously obtained by the consumer;

detecting a mismatch between the active incrementable CONFIG ID and the previously obtained CONFIG ID;

receiving a request at the producer device from the consumer device when a mismatch is detected by the consumer device to send the active configuration information to the consumer device, the active configuration information relating to the an active data sample; and

automatically transmitting the active configuration information stored in the producer device, without modifying the configuration information as a result of the request, the configuration information being independent of configuration information stored in any other producer device and that is not from a common database of configuration information or a central configuration repository from the producer device to the consumer device via the network in response to receiving the request from the consumer device.

24. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the [[a]] configuration information protocol is stored in the producer device.

25. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein an incrementable CONFIG ID is time stamped.